

U.S. Application No. 10/537,632 (Attorney Docket No.36211)
Inventor: Hillforth, Mikael Title: AN APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ANIMALS
Group Art Unit: 3643; Examiner: Andrea M. Valenti
Amendment Responsive to Office Action of August 4, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus operative for counting and detecting [[an]] animals, each animal having a body part and a head part, comprising:

an animal passage extending in a transport direction, said passage being defined by a first enclosure member and a second enclosure member, which members are arranged on a respective side of the passage and extend substantially in parallel to said transport direction, and

a sensor device which is arranged to sense the animal in the passage,

wherein the sensor device is arranged to sense a parameter related to a width of the animal seen in a determined direction, at a determined position in the passage, and wherein the sensor device is arranged to produce a signal when the parameter indicates that the width of the animal is less than a predetermined value at the determined position,

wherein the apparatus further comprises a control member connected to the sensor device,

the control member being arranged to count the animals passing the animal passage

in response to the sensing of the sensor device.

2. (Cancelled) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sensor device is arranged to produce said signal when the value of said parameter indicates that the cross-section size of the animal is less than a predetermined value at the determined position.
3. (Cancelled) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the parameter is related to the width of the animal seen in a determined direction, and wherein the sensor device is arranged to produce said signal when said parameter indicates that the width of the animal is less than a predetermined value at the determined position.
4. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the determined direction is a substantially vertical direction.
5. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the determined direction is a substantially vertically downward direction.
6. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the determined direction is a substantially horizontal direction.
7. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sensor device comprises at least a first sensor and a second sensor, wherein the first sensor is arranged to sense the presence of the animal at a first point of the passage, and wherein the second sensor is arranged to sense the presence of the animal at a second point of the passage.

8. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first point and the second point are both located at the determined position with regard to the transport direction but spaced apart from each other with a distance, wherein said distance is larger than the width of the head part but smaller than the width of the body part of an animal of a normal size to be guided through the animal passage.
9. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first point is located in the proximity of the first enclosure member, whereas the second point is located in the proximity of the second enclosure member.
10. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first sensor and the second sensor both are provided above the passage to sense the animal passing below the respective first and second sensors.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a gate device arranged in the passage to take one of an open position and a closed position.
14. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, further including a gate device arranged in the passage to take one of an open position and a closed position, and wherein the control member is arranged to control the position of the gate device in response to the sensing of the sensor device.

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15. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the gate device includes a gate which is provided in the proximity of the sensor device and arranged to close the passage.
16. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the gate device includes a gate which is provided in the proximity of the sensor device and arranged to close the passage and open an exit passage leading away from the passage.
17. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the sensor device comprises at least a first sensor and a second sensor, wherein the first sensor is arranged to sense the presence of the animal at a first point of the passage, and wherein the second sensor is arranged to sense the presence of the animal at a second point of the passage.
18. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the apparatus comprises a control member connected to the sensor device, and wherein the control member is arranged to count the animals passing in the animal passage in response to the sensing of the sensor device.
19. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the apparatus further comprises a gate device arranged in the passage to take one of an open position and a closed position, and wherein the control member is arranged to control the position of the gate device in response to the sensing of the sensor device.

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20. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the gate device includes a gate which is provided in the proximity of one of the first sensor and second sensor of the sensor device, and is arranged to close the passage and open an exit passage leading away from the passage.